Standard.

Murth-Carolina Standard WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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RALEIGH: FRIDAY, JAN. 15, 1864.

Congress.

It will be seen by the synopsis of proceedings which we publish to day, that the House of Representatives in Richmond has ordered an inquiry into the expediency of impressing the provisions of those of our citizens who have laid in a year's supply-that is, the smoke-houses and corn-cribs of our people are to be visited by impressing officers and their allowance made them by these officers, without appeal to higher authority.

The most important measures are still discussed in secret session, and the people are, therefore, in the dark as to the shape these measures are assuming, the votes upon them, and what is said by members in relation to them. We shall keep our readers posted as to final action on these measures.

Congress has made secresy the rule, and the publication of its proceedings the exception to the rule, thus reversing the intent and meaning of the Constitution. The constituent body can have no check on the representative when business is transacted in secret, and a fundamental principle of free government, to wit, the responsibility of the representative to his constituents, is thus deliberately disregarded. Congress appears to be desperate. Many of the members, who are weak men, appear to be greatly alarmed, and but for the common sense and good judgment of the people they would communicate their desperation and alarm to the country.

We are assured by those who have the matter in charge in this town and County, that they know that the poor have never been so well provided for as since the war .- Fuyetteville Observer. We have heard of statements similar to the above

as having been made verbally, but this is the first time we have seen such a statement in print. We do not believe it. It is not possible with corn at \$15 per bushel, bacon \$3 per pound, flour 60 cents per pound, leather \$14 to \$20 per pound, cotton yarn at \$20 to \$30 per bunch, and cotton cloth at \$3 50 per yard; while the amounts realized by seamstresses, laborers, and workingmen are not at all as high in proportion as the prices they are compelled to pay for the necessaries of life. The truth is, "the poor," as they are called, have never suffered as they have suffered since this war. Thousands of families are half clad, and without a morsel of meat, and many of them find it difficult to get bread. The spectre of gaunt poverty and want stalks this day through the cabins of thousands of our people, who before the war were in comfortable circumstances. "The poor." as they are sneeringly called, have been reduced to want and in some instances to beggary, by this cruel and wicked war, and when they complain and want peace, they are told to be quiet, for they have never been so well provided for as since the war! Indeed, many who lived comfortably before the war, and even in affluence, are now so reduced that they do not know one week how they will secure a support the next. It is all very well for those who have an abundance of corn and meat, or who have made fortunes during the war out of the necessities of the people by manufacturing and selling cotton cloth and yarn, or by speculation, to say that "the poor have no cause for complaint; but no statement of this kind in print or otherwise can change the facts. The following extract from a communication in the last Spirit of the Age, written by a gentleman who has recently visited the mountain region of this State, contains a volume:

"Hundreds of almost naked and starving mothers and children may be seen huddling together in huts and log cabins among these mountains, without supplies of food or clothing, seemingly awaiting the result of fate. My heart swells with deep emotions, and my eyes are ready to overflow with tears when I reflect upon the helpless people."

Here is a picture to which we would direct the eye of the Observer. "Almost naked and starving mothers and children huddling together in huts and log cabins!"-and the winter only half gone, with the pinching scarcity of the spring and summer before them, and no prospect of even as full a crop as was made last year. This of itself, it seems to us. is an argument for peace which should reach the dullest ear and the hardest heart; and yet when a Convention of the people is urged, or when it is proposed that the State take some steps to end the war and relieve this and other miseries, the Observer cries out that "the poor" are in a better condition than they were before the war, and that the advocates of peace are false to the country. But time will show who are true and who are false .-The day is not distant when the people will take their affairs into their own hands, and those who may stand in their way will "break like a pipestem in the torrent."

We invite the attention of our readers to the able and well considered communication in the Standard to-day, over the signature of "Observer," setting forth reasons why a State Convention should be called. These reasons, not to mention others, strike us as cogent and conclusive. We believe the time has come when North-Carolina should take steps in her sovereign capacity, to check the usurpations of the Confederate government and pave the way to

The Favetteville Observer says we are "deep in a combination to oust" Gov. Vance from office-or, in other words, to defeat him if he should be a candidate for re-election. This is not true. We know of no "combination" against Gov. Vance, and if any exists we are not in it. The Conservative prople of the State have a right to re elect Gov. Vance, and they have a right to defeat him. We shall go with the people hereafter, as heretofore. If Gov. Vance should go with the people who have honored him by placing him where he is, he will be re elected, if he should desire it; but if he should oppose the views and wishes of those who made him Governor, he will be defeated. That is all The Conservative party of this State is united, compacted. firm in its purposes, and growing in strength every day; and it will not sacrifice itself or the great objects it has in view for any man or set of men.

By the way, who is the Raleigh "detective" who informed the Observer that we are "deep in a combination" against Gov. Vance?

Meekby

Vol. XXX.-No. 3.

RALEIGH, N. C., WODNES DAY, JANUARY 20, 1864.

RICHMOND, Jan Congressional. the House to have the Efforts have been made in ted to open session, but so the currency bills deba-The President's velo to the bill yout success.

of dellars in the hands of the provisions a million of Kentucky to clothe Kentucky soldiers, werner subject of south subject of some comment. A bill was passed on the 19th January, 1862, appropriating two millions to aid in raising troops in Kentucky, before they were mustered into service, which appropriation has not been expended. The bill which the President has just vetoed devotes one million of that appropriation to clothe Kentucky soldiers. The President dent objects because it directs that the expenditure be made by other than bended officers of governot employ; that two sets of agents will be appointed to do the same duty, who will be bidders against each other in the market. On motion, in the Senate to day, to pass the bill over the veto, the vote stood, year 10, mays 8—not the two thirds

senired by the Constitution.
The Senate adopted a resolution that a joint committee of both Houses prepare and publish an address to the country. The House has heretofors

adopted the same. In the House this morning, the Speaker presented a resolution passed by the legislature of Georgia, declaring that that State would never submit to reconstruction or Yankee affilation on any terms: which was read and ordered to be printed. Authority has been granted a committee to investigate federal outrages in North-Carolina, and send for persons and papers. The bill reported by the Military committee some time ago, to repeal all exemption laws, was taken up and referred back to committee; yeas 82, nays 24. House in open session only about half an hour.

[SECOND DISPATCH.] RICHMOND, Jan. 12.- In the House this morning a report from the Superintendent of Conscription was presented, showing the number of officers and soldiers engaged in executing the conscript law, in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia. In Virginia, there are 4 colonels, 8 majors, 28 captains, 65 lieutenats, 31 physicians, and 107 soldiers; North-Carolina, 47 commissioned officers 64 soldiers, and 750 mounted men; South Carolina, 64 officers and 141 men; Georgia, 68 officers, 208 men, besides Lee's battalion of Rangers, consisting of 30 officers and 455 men. The duties of the Conscript Bureau, besides enrolling conscripts, extend to arresting and returning deserters and absentees, the number of whom are now very great; and the matter of furloughs and details outside the army, which alone amounted to 1,300.

A bill to allow Chaplains to draw the rations of a soldier and those who have horses to draw forage

for the same, was passed. A resolution was adopted that a special committee of five be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the impressment, for the army, of a share of the pork and bacon held by persons in the country, who have a full year's supply, prices for the same to be agreed upon by the parties, or ascertained by local appraisers, without

Three bills introduced to pay for horses killed, captured, or personently disabled in the service,

and ordered to be printed:

Resolution adopted calling on the President for the names of persons authorized to raise companies, battalions and regiments since the 27th September. 1862, in sections where the conscription has not been suspended, and the number of men raised. into the expediency of allowing Maryland soldiers to elect a delegate to Congress, was lost.

The Senate adopted a resolution calling on the President for Bragg's report of the battle of Chickamanga. Passed a bill to allow officers of the Navy to draw rations and fuel. Also, a bill fixing the first Monday in May next for the next Congress to assemble. House adjourned to meet to-night at

RICHMOND, Jan. 18 .- When the House met last night it immediately went into secret session on the tax and currency bills, and continued over two hours. The House met this morning at ten and went into secret session at eleven, cotinuing till after three, showing they are working earnestly to dispose of matters soon as possible. This morning a bill was presented to authorize the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in any city, town or military district when in his judgement the public safety requires, to apply only to arrests made by the authority of the Confederate government and for offences against the same, and to continue in force till thirty days after the meeting of next Congress: also a bill to give transportation to all soldiers on furlough, same are now on sick furloughs; and a bill that the proceeds of sales of property in the year 1863, raised or acquired any previous year, shall not be taxed. These bills were appropriately re-

A resolution was adopted instructing the committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the propriety of allowing the tax in kind on cotton to be paid in money, and prescribes the manner in which cotton due the government shall be prepared when not so much as a baie; also that the same committee inquire into the propriety of making all duties on blockade goods payable in specie.

The Military committee reported a bill to confer on Adjutants of battalions and regiments the rank and pay of Captain of Cavalry. The bill was taken up and discussed till the hour arrived to go into secret session.

The Senate committee on commerce reported several important bills-one to prohibit during the war the exportation of any cotton, tobacco, military or naval stores, sugar, molasses and rice, except under such regulations as the President may prescribe. Another prohibits the importation of any articles of luxury during the war. It prohibits by name a very long list to confine all importations strictly to articles of necessity. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prescribe the maxi-

mum prices at which certain articles shall be made. The same committee reported back to the Senate the resolution of the legislature of Georgia favoring the appointment of citizens not liable to military service to act as impressing agents. The committee unanimously approved the measure, and hoped the Secretary of War would adopt it.

The Senate went into secret session on the bill to increase the military age to fifty-five, &c.

Hon. Wm. A. Graham Senator elect to the Senate of the Confederate States, has resigned his seat in the Legislature of this State, as Senator from Orange county. No one, as yet, has been mentioned as his successor, but we hope some one will be selected who will fill the distinguished place with honor to himself and profit to the people at large. Mr. Graham will be an ornament to the Confederate States Senate, and we do not hesitate to express it, as our opinion, that he will rank far above any oth er man in that body for ability, and useful Legislative experience. To such men the country have a right to look with confidence for some reform in our policy, if it is possible to be brought about. Would that there were many more such in the Senate .-His place in the Senate of the State will not be easily filled .- Salisbury Watchman.

THE DANGER.-The danger is, says the Montgomery Mail, not that Congress will do nothing, but that it will do too much. Carry out the recommendations of the memorialists in reference to in creasing the army, and put the whole male population in the service—and we are vanquished and overrun before the first of next September, no by Lincoln's armies, but by starvation. We confronted by two foes, neither one less angerous than the other. The Yankees and annual food menace us on each side, and we most have a vigilant eye to both. Abstract the whole white male popWHOLE NUMBER 1506:

Public Meeting in Johnston County. On Thursday, the 7th inst, a public meeting was held at the Court-house in Smithfield, and, on motion of Maj. W. A. Smith, Simon Godwin, Esq, was called to the Chair, and Col. B. A. Woodall and Capt. C. Lassiter, were requested to act as Secre-

J. R. John of Maj. W. A. Smith, L. R. Waddell, J. R. John Benj. Godwin, Thos. D. Sneed, and Sam'l. Woody and were appointed a committee to draft resolutions for the action of the meeting.

During the absence of the committee, the meeting was addressed in apprited and patrictic addresses by Dr. J. T. Leach and Maj. W. A. Smith.

Dr. J. T. Leach and Maj. W. A. Smith.

The committee returned and through their chairman, L. R. Waddell, Esq., reported the following preamble and resolutions, viz:

the Confederate government towards a military despotien by the enactment of unjust and oppressive sovereign and independent State, to restore justice, and our posterity, is just cause for assembling together, consulting for our common good, instructing our representatives, and petitioning the Legislature for a redress of grievances; therefore be it-

derived from the people only, and that any legisla-tion by the Confederate Congress or decision of the judiciary denying or abridging their rights, would be unconstitutional, unjust, and oppressive, and ought to be resisted by all constitutional and legal

Resolved. That a clear and strict subordination the miltary to the civil law is one of the pillars of republican liberty, and any attempt to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, or to supercede the civil law upon the plea of military necessity, or to institute a "supreme law power," would be revolutionary

ing those who had put substitutes in the army, was a gross violation of plighted faith between the government and her citizens, and is well calculated to destroy the confidence of the people in the stability of the government, the wisdom and honesty of Congress and the administration.

when she is forced to decide between a military destion of her citizens.

Resolved. That we are opposed to the conscrip-tion of any more men in the State of North-Carolina until all persons residing access us, who claim no until all persons residing access us, who claim no ultrainnessers wither conscripted or aent out of the

our members in Congress to use their influence in modifying it; and do further request them to urge the authorities to permit the people in North Carolina to retain the grain grown in the State for the sustenance of her citizens.

portunity to reassure our brave soldiers in the field, that no effort will be spared to provide for their wives and children, and that we exhort them not to desert their comrades in arms, but to stand by their rights, hoping that a speedy peace may be the fruit of their toil and danger.

The foregoing resolutions were separately read and unanimously adopted.

port of the resolutions.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

SIMON GODWIN, Ch'n.

day last says: "Much has been said about the influence of cer-

tain papers and meetings in North-Carolina, and that the cause has been injured by the sentiments of the one and the action of the other; but the course of Congress, since the commencement of the present session, has raised a clamor for peace throughout the length and breadth of this State as far in advance of the feelings created by the meetings held last summer as an Egyptian pyramid is superior to a pigmy nine-pin; and if the people are permitted to vote at the election in August next, no man can secure their suffrages for place or power who is not pledged to contend for the personal liberty of the citizen and to favor and urge negotiations with the enemy for an honorable peace. The first month of the present session of Congress has done more to dispose the minds of the people of North-Carolina for peace than all that newspapers, meetings and politicians have done since the war commenced, and they will not again vote for or confide in any one who will not represent their views .-This people have poured out their blood and treasure like water, and while they would by no means sheathe the sword, thinking that the time has come when self-interest as well as honesty demands that an earnest effort should be made to stop the inhuman butchery which bids fair to devastate both sections, they intend to exercise their rights as free citizens of a sovereign State. North-Carolina has been true to the Confederacy and only asks that the Confederacy be true to her; and come what may, she will never surrender her own sovereignty or consent to the enslavement of her citizens upon the plea of military necessity."

ANALYSIS OF THE TAX BILL IN CONGRESS .- It is known that Congress is now maturing, in secret session, a bill to levy taxes for the support of the government. This bill has come from the Special Committee on Currency. It proposes a tax of 20 per cent. on all agricultural products; wheat core, tobacco, naval stores, provisions, cloths and generations. ally all articles which may be enumerated as army supplies. Stocks, coin and all paper used as currency are taxed 5 per cent. All debts which have been paid in Confederate money prior to the pas-sage of the act are to ed gainst the party who paid them 10 to 20 per cent, according to the date of payment. Profits in trade and business, made since the 1st of January, 1889, are taxed 83 per cent. with some reeptions, and with an additional tax of 25 per cent on the excess over 25 per cent of the i chits of incorporated and joint stock companies "Ade in any of the years since the war. The in-

PROVOST MAPSHAL WATERS.—We take much pleasure in so ing that Capt. Waters, the present attentive to his duties in sending off stragglers and pregrying the general good order of the City, and U.at he is active and vigilant whenever the peace of the community is managed by soldiers, or oth-

An Act to prevent the collectment or enrollment of Substitutes in the military service of the Confetence States.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That no person liable to military service chall bereafter be permitted or allowed to furnished a substitute for such service, nor shall any

substitute be received, enlisted, or earnied in the

[Approved, January 5th, 1864.]
II. Persons rendered liable to military service, by

operation of the preceding Acts, are placed on the same footing with all others hitherto held hable by

IV. Enrolling officers will proceed as rapidly as

practicable in the enrollment of persons herein made liable to military service. Previous to enrollment

as conscripts, all such persons will be allowed to vol-

unteer in companies in service on the 16th April,

1862, provided the company chosen does not at the time of volunteering reach the maximum number allowed, and upon such company being selected, the

volunteer will receive from the enrolling officer a cer-

tificate to the effect that he has so volunteered; and

no volunteer will be received into any company except on such certificate. Persons who fail to

make their selection at the time of enrollment, will

V. Persons who report to the enrolling officers will be enrolled, and may be allowed a furlough of

ten days before reporting to the Camp of Instruc-

VI. All persons, whether volunteers or conscripts

under this order, will pass through the Camp of In-

struction of the State to which they belong, and be

forwarded thence to the companies which are se-

VII. The Bureau of Conscription is charged with

adopting proper regulations for the enforcement

VIII. All exemptions heretofore granted are sub-

ect to revision, under instructions from the Bureau

of Conscription, and if found to be improper or un-

authorized by law, will be revoked.

By order. (Signed) S. COOPER.

Adjt. and Insp. Gen.

A Business View.—Suppose a case. A young man secedes from partnership and sets up for him-

self. He has great resources, but there is great op-

position. The old concern is determined to take away all his customers and break him up. He goes

on for two or three years, holding on bravely, but

losing heavily. He is known to be in great trouble. His credit is seriously impaired and his resources much diminished. Still there is enough left, if husbanded well and prudently handled, to enable

Heretofore he has been calm, discreet, confident.

His courage, discretion and tenacity have more than

act cost more than it would come to be put him vn. On a sudden he begins to look wild, and it hispered that he is about to resort to deeperate

to do. "I intend to risk everything I have in the world in one grand speculation, If I fail I ship fail gloriously; but I know I shall succeed." This

is his reply. His friends expostulate in vain. He will not heed them. They withdraw from him.—

Any aid they may now render him, will but im-

poverish themselves. The members of the old con-

cern smile in triumph, for now they have their

young rival jum where they want him. Bent on desperate measures, and without outside assistance,

all that is necessary to ensure his ruin is a little

Had he pursued the opposite course, retrenched

and husbanded his resources, displayed only the more coolness and caution as his perils increased;

had he made it appear that his purpose was to make every edge cut, to waste nothing and to prolong the

contest, indefinitely and never to venture so much

as to leave nothing to fall back upon and to recu-

perate from, his friends would have clung to him.

would have eked out his means whenever and

wherever they could, and his opponents, seeing no

end to the struggle, would have withdrawn in de-

spair. Business men, practical men are always

terrified by desperate expedients. Desperation is

a sign of weakness-a conscious want of strength-

Our readers may draw the parallel.-Rich. Whig.

a knowledge that power is failing and a confess

expense are greats ask him what he inten

him to weather the storm.

caution and a little time.

of inability to hold out

lected, or to which they may be assigned.

be assigned according to existing regulations.

[Approved, December 28th, 1868.]
An Act to put an end to the exemption from military service of those who have heretofore furnish-Whereas, in the present circumstances of the country, it requires the aid of all who are able to bear The Congress of the Confederate States of America

do enact, That no person shall be exempted from military service by reason of his having furnished a substitute; but this act shall not be so construed as to affect persons who, though not liable to render military service, have, nevertheless, furnished sub-

same footing with all others interest based of Congress.

III. Persons herein rendered liable to military service are required to report as volunteers or conscripts, without delay, to the enrolling officers; and all who delay beyond the lat day of February, 1864, will be considered as having renounced the privilege of volunteering, and held for assignment according WHEREAS, The alarming and fearful tendency of aws to her citizens is just cause of complaint; and whereas, an earnest desire on our part as citizens of a secure domestic tranquility, and perpetuate the blessings of civil and religious liberty to ourselves

Resolved, As all political power is vested in and

Resolved, That the late act of Congress conscript-

Resolved. That North-Carolina as a sovereign and independent State, has the right to consult the present good and future happiness of her citizens, and potism and her sovereignty for the good of her people, she will choose the latter through a Conven-

Resolved, That the prompt and decided course of Gov. Vance in maintaining the rights of the people and the supremacy of the civil over the military aw, meets our unqualified approbation, and we enbrace the present as a fit occasion to assure him that the people will sustain him in the protection of their rights and the discharge of his duties as the Executive of North-Carolina, and that we most respectfully and earnestly request him to convene the egislature, at an early day, if in his judgment the interest of the people and the maintenance of our rights as a sovereign and independent State re-

Resolved, That we are opposed to the impress-ment law as it now exists, and we do hereby request

Resolved, That we regard this as a favorable op-

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Raleigh Standard for publication, and that other papers in the State favorable to peace, be requested to copy.

After the adoption of the resolutions, L. R. Waddell being called upon, made a brief speech in sup-

B. A. WOODALL, | Differences. C. LASSITER, WELL AND TRULY SAID .- The Progress of Mon-

> HEAVY LOSS .- As it will be seen by a telegram from Wilmington, the steamer Dare, bound for Wilmington, has been run ashore, near that place, by the Yankee blockading fleet and has no doubt either been captured or destroyed. She had on board a valuable cargo, a considerable portion which was intended for the Virginia Military Institute, the State Armory and the Capitol. These steres consisted of cloth, boots and shoes, stationery, emery, sand-paper, &c., &c. The part of the cargo intended for the State was purchased in Europe by a special agent of the State government. The loss to the Virginia Military Institute alone amounts, if we are correctly informed, to £2,000, English currency .- Rich. Enquirer.

THE MUTINY AT FORT JACKSON .- We find the following in the Mobile Evening News of the 28th De-

We have had the pleasure of an interview with Col. T. J. Reid, of the 12th Arkansas regiment, whose escape from New Orleans on the 14th instant has already been reported by telegraph. Col. Reid corrects some reports respecting the Fort Jackson affair. He places no credit in the statement that the garrison of Fort St. Philip has joined in the out-break. The garrison of Fort Jackson was brobably from one to two colored regiments, with 80 white officers, 27 of whom were put to death -the others escaped. He had heard no account of the liberation of the Confederate prisoners in the Fort, all of whom he believes to be civilians, though there may be a few officers among them. Neither had be heard of an extra being issued by the True Delta and Sup-pressed; indeed, they would not have dared to pub-lish it.

Banks sent an order to the papers to state that there had been a slight disturbance at Fort Jackson, ot no bloodshed as was rumored in the city. A caution was appended not to comment upon it, or upon the news from Fort Jackson.

The rebellion was not the result of a collision be-

tween the men and their officers, but had evidently been previously planned, and grew out of the general dissatisfaction of the negroes with their new masters. The garrison of the fort consists of regiments of free negroes that were organized by Butler, and who elected officers from their own body.— These officers were reduced to the ranks by Gen Banks. Some ot the privates have been sente by courts martial to several years service without pay—have been, in fact, sentenced to slavery.

The Yankees send on all "contrabands" is

diately on their arrival, to the government planta-tions, where the discipline of the lash is adminis-tered with unheard of severity. These, and such as these, are the causes which have exaspersted the minds of the negroes, and led to the revolt. The excitement and apprehension which it has produced may be judged of from the fact that on the morning of the 14th a salute was fired on the arrival of two brigades of white troops, who are supposed been collected from points between New O and Brashear City.

A Word about the Farmers. Mr. Wigfall alluded some days since in the Sen-

ate, to the contrast between the disposition of the farmers at the beginning of the war and at this time, in relation to furnishing supplies to the army and to consumers generally. Two years ago, he said, the farmers of Orange County, Virginia, furnished large quantities of supplies to Gen. Beauregard free of charge; now they haggled about the price of a pound of pork, and would burn their wheat before they would sell it to the government. Mr. Wigfall attributes this change to the fall in value of Confederate money, but this is not the true cause. It is the result of the unjust and oppressive manner in which the farmers of the country have been treated by the government. In the first place, the government issued a currency which to some extent it repudiated, thus adding to its rate of depreciation; in the second place, it passed the tithing law which operates unequally, and exposes much of what is collected to decay and loss; in the third place, the impressment law steps in to take from the farmer what the tithing law has spared; in the fourth place, the government officer notifies the farmer not to sell any thing which the impressment law has spared, as the government will need what may be left; in the fifth place, exemptions from military service are provided for nearly every calling with the exception of that of the farmer; in the sixth place, the slaves are frequently ordered to distant points to work on fortifications, and the farmers themselves have been required to lose valuable time in attending musters: and in addition to all this, the prices of labor, iron, agricultural implements and the like are enormous; and when we consider these things, with the further fact that the farmers have to pay at the highest rates for every thing which they purchase of the merchants for consumption in their families, we are not surprised that they

ask the prices they do for what they have to sell. Every thing comes from the soil. It is the only source of life and wealth to all classes. Yet those who cultivate the soil have enjoyed no exemptions from military service, and the heaviest burdens in

other respects have been laid upon them. The necessaries of life, scarce at this time and selling at enormous prices, will be still scarcer six menths hence, and if Confederate money should be the standard then as now, prices will have greatly inercased. Thousands of farms in this State of all sizes are now uncultivated, the fences decaying, the ditches filling up, and the fields covered with briars and weeds. The stock of horses, cattle mules, and sheep has greatly diminished in number and value; a vast amount of labor of both races, white and black, has been lost to the State : the means of improving the lands that may be cultivated, such as foreign manures, composts and the like are not to be had; and suitable implements for breaking up and pulverizing the soil, and preparing it for the crops, cannot be obtained, while those on hand are wearing out. A supply of corn, and fodder, and bacon is indispensable to the making of the next crop. Hands and horses cannot work without strong food. Where is this food to come from? We fear it is not in the country in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. We may, therefore, look for a smaller crop the present year than was realized last year; and if a still further drain should be made on our agricultural population to increase the army, we may anticipate the most distressing consequences. We sound the alarm in time-let Congress look to it.

"Too Fond of Power."

It was admitted by Mr. Miles, in some remarks in the House of Representatives a few days since, that President Davis is "too fond of power." Mr. Miles is a friend of the President, and one of his

spokesmen in the House. "Too fond of power." Such has been the characteristic of every tyrant and usurper from Cæsar to Napoleon. Good men are not "fond of power." GEORGE WASHINGTON might have made himself by s word Dictator, but he rejected the very thought as degrading to his peerless fame. When the war was over he laid all his power at the feet of the

Congress at Annapolis, and declared that in divest-

ing himself of it he experienced great relief and President Davis has filled the land with his party favorites, who look to him as the source of their privileges and exemptions from active military serrice, and who, in most instances, are prepared to surrender the liberty for which we are contending in order to gratify their own selfish views. If we were sure, as we cannot be, judging by the past. that he would wield the immense power which he already has, and which he is evidently seeking to increase, for the good of the country, our fears for the future would be lessened; but we would not be willing to trust even a good man with the exercise

despotic power, would soon become a bad man. We concur with the Charleston Mercury that violations of the Constitution, disregard of State rights, and such measures as would result in a Central Dictatorship, are fraught with incalculable in

of arbitrary power. A good man entrusted with

"CONSCRIPT ALL MEN-TAX ALL PROPERTY-Suspend Habras Corpus.—It is a bad sign when, in place of the steady self-possession and calm ex-ercise of wisdom displayed by the Roman Senate after the battle of Cannæ, the recklessness of alarm and the desperation of demagoguism show their presnce in the Congress of the Confederate States.

Propositions to trample upon the Constitution under which the legislative and executive branches of the Confederate government hold their seats in Richmond-to violate the oaths of office, and, under the plea of necessity, without authority of law, and against State Rights, to place all persons and all property and all liberty under a Central Dictatorship, may be thought by some to be fraught with safety and peace. But it becomes the patriotic, intelligent and unterrified representatives of States and peoples to comprehend the true causes of our danger, and to apply such remedies as the great leg-islative powers of the country afford. Not a want of power, but a failure to employ the best agents and to use efficiently the powers conferred, has prought us into our present condition of peril. The ismanagement of our financial affairs and military resources, with the inefficient execution of important laws, indicate the source of our weakness and the direction where the legislative attention is most needed. Instead of going into wild revolutionary talk, like some that has been uttered, and proposa to accumulate all power in the same hands, Congress may bend its efforts to infusing competency and vigor in the bureaux and departments of the administration, without upsetting our government or overriding laws under the Constitution. Congress has power enough, if it will but use wisdom. The Executive has power enough, if used with energy and wisdom. Anything else is madness."

The Pending Military Bill. In the House of Representatives, on Friday last,

Mr. Staples, of Virginia, submitted the following striking and manly remarks on Mr. Miles' military bill, now pending in the House: "Mr. Staples, of Virginia, who was entitled to the floor, moved to re commit the bill and amend-

ments to the military committee, and said that that committee, at the last session of Congress, reported bill similar to the one now under cons was rejected in the House by a decisive vote.-Let us earnestly hope that this bill may share the same fate. He had voted against the proposition then, and there was nothing in the condition of the country, or in the reasoning of the honorable gen-tleman from South-Carolina, (Mr. Miles) that would induce him to change the opinion then entertained. He (Mr. Staples) argued at considerable length to show that the Secretary of War could not perform the duties this bill would impose upon him; that he (the Secretary) would be compelled to delegate the power to innumerable boards and agents, dispersed throughout the country; that these boards would open now sources of patronage and power; that they would be exposed to all the temptations of personal, political and family influence, to fraud, corruption and bribery-creating, by their decisions, dissatisfaction among the people and discon-tent in the army. He insisted that the expense of an universal conscription would be enormous; that no man could estimate the injury inflicted upon all the industrial interests of the country by the sudden stoppage of so many callings and pursuits until the Secretary of War shall determine who shall be detailed, and for what purpose. The honorable gentleman from South Carolina says that Congress cannot agree upon a bill. The gentleman is mistaken. It may require time, but an actual vote will always test the sense of the House upon any proposition for exemption. The same process of reasoning would lead us to commit to the President the whole subject of taxation and currency. Upon that question there are wider differences of opinion than y other in the whole range of political economydifferences as to principle and differences as to detail. But, sir, these difficulties do not relieve Congress from the obligation of maturing such measures of finance as the necessities of the country demand. The whole subject of conscription and exemption belongs to Congress, and to Congress alone. It is a legislative power, a legislative discretion, and a legislative obligation. Congress must declare war, Congress must raise armies, Congress must determine who are to compose the armies, and who are to be exempt from military service. For the proper exercise of this trust the members are responsible to their constituents, to the country and to pos terity. Who so capable of discharging this trust as the men upon this floor, fresh from the people, and familiar with all their wants, their necessi ties, and the diversified interests of an extensive country? Why, sir, we are sent here for this purpose; and when we acknowledge ourselves incapa-ble of performing this legislative duty we should resign our seats and go back and so tell our constituents. This bill clothes the President with the powers of an autocrat. It invests him with prerog atives before which those of Napoleon sink into insignificance. Pass this bill, and no man can pursue a mechanical occupation, no man practice medicine, publish a newspaper, or ascend the pulpit and proclaim the tidings of the Gospel without crawling to the footstool of power, and humbly asking permission from an omnipotent executive. Pass this live favor and patronage. We shall have the War

government" The Fayetteville Observer refuses to correct its misstatement that the resolutions recently adopted by the people of Johnston County were prepared in Raleigh. It declines to discuss our "knowledge on the subject," and says "the information upon which the statement was made in the Observer was and is regarded by us as unquestionable." The Observer speaks as it is prompted. It sought to prejudice the action of the people of Johnston by the false charge that their resolutions were prepared in Raleigh, and by inference, in the Standard office; but we tell that paper that the Standard belongs to no Raleigh clique, as it would have its readers believe, but is an independent Conservative journal both in tone and conduct. If there are cliques in Raleigh endeavoring to manufacture and shape public opinion, the Standard does not belong to them.

department and the Executive mansion beleaguered

by an innumerable throng of suppliants and beg-

gars for "the thrift that follows fawning." Mem

pers of Congress will be a sected to swell the host

of applicants. We shall be seen, hat in hand, crowd-

ing the ante-rooms of the War department and the

avenues that lead to the executive office, humbly

asking for the detail of a shoemaker, or tanner, or

minister of the Gospel, for our constituents. He

would not vote to expose his constituents to influ-

ences so demoralizing. He would not subject him-

self to the loss of that manly independence so nec-

essary to a representative of the people in his whole

intercourse with the executive departments of the

CHARLOTTE BULLETIN .- Mr. Britton has retired from the Charlotte Bulletin, having disposed of the establishment to Mr. S. W. Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker is a sprightly and agreeable writer, and will no doubt render the Bulletin an acceptable visitor to its numerous patrons.

Meeting of Board of Internal Improvement. At a meeting of this Board, held on Wednesday, the 18th inst., there were present Gov. Vance, President ex-officio, and Hon. E. G. Reade.

The following appointments were made as Managers of the Cape Fear and Deep River Improvement : Dr. R. B. Haywood, of Wake; B. G. Worth, Esq., of New Hanover; Henry A. London, Esq., of Chatham, and Richard J. Ashe, Esq., of Orange county.

Extract from a letter to the Editor, dated

Азневовоиси, Jan. 9, 1864. "Heretofore the people of this community have natronized the Favetteville Observer, but owing to his blind zeal in upholding the rash measures of Jeff Davis and his proselytes at Richmond to the utter neglect of the rights of our good and glorious State, the people are quitting the Observer, and hear nine tenths of them speak in favor of the Standard as being the great exponent of the rights of the people. We bid you go on—the people will sustain you."

We are constantly cheered by letters like the above, from all parts of the State. The people are with us in this crisis, and against the Observer .-The special pleading and misrepresentations to which that paper is resorting in its extremity, will not extricate it from the difficulties which beset it. its only hope of retaining its influence, or rather of regaining it, is in a prompt return to Conservative

THE BATTLE FIELD OF CHICKAMAUGA. - A COFFEE pondent who lately visited the batte-field of Chick-

amsuga writes: The battle field of Chickamauga is entirely deserted. Its thousand mounds of earth are sinking to their old level, and the stench of a month ago has passed away, as the cold weather has frozen the ground and the crisp atmosphere borne away the effluvia of putrifying carcases. It is a gloomy place, however, and will always remain in my mind associated with sad shapes.